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Abstract of the Disclosure:

A data-processing device, in particular a network processor for processing layer 1 to 7 of protocol stacks in applications such as LAN, ATM switches, IP routers or frame relays which are based on DSL, Ethernet or cable modems. The processor has instruction buffers, instruction decoders, and instruction-execution units corresponding to a number of processes to be processed in parallel. A program flow control unit essentially controls the parallel processing.

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